1306. [*Transferred to 12th August, 1993*]

Expenditure Incurred on Advertisements

1307. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent by his Ministry on advertisements during 1992-93; and

(b) what is the value of advertisements which have been given to the newpaper (Language-wise) during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Opening up of Indian Ports for US and NATO Navies.

1308. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to open up Indian ports like Cochin for US and NATO navies;

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions; and

(c) the benefits to be accrued to our country from such openness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Indian Ports are open for the visits of foreign naval vessels subject to their obtaining clearance from Ministries like Defence, External Affairs, etc. Generally their visits are goodwill in nature.

Restriction on Port Craft and Public Sector Shipyards

1309. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to restrict sources of port craft and other vessels to four public sector shipyards;

(b) if so, the details and the factors that have weighed for taking the decision;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the major ports and private sector companies manufacturing port crafts have opposed the decision;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to reconsider the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) In order to utilise the installed capacity of the four public sector shipyards under the administrative control of Ministry of Surface Transport viz., Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, Cochin Shipyard Limited, Cochin, Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Limited, Calcutta and Rajabagan Dockyard of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation, Calcutta. It has been decided that the tender enquiries in respect of vessels and crafts required by the Major Ports costing Rs. 10.00 crores and above each be limited to the above four Public Sector Shipyards only. However, public tenders may be called for orders of vessels and crafts required by Major Ports below Rs. 10.00 crores each.

(c) and (d) Representations were received from some of the Major Port Trusts as well as Shipyards Association of India. In their representations, the Major Port Trusts stated that by limiting the competition within the four public Sector Shipyards the project may not be cost effective and time bound due to poor financial condition and high overhead cost of these Shipyards. The Shipyards Association of India pointed out that Government decision in this regard will deprive Private Sector Shipyards of the major source of work and will render them sick.

(e) The present decision is only for the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 and would be reviewed in October, 1994 for such modifications as may be considered necessary which will then become applicable with effect from 1st April, 1995 onwards.

Setting up of Drivers' Training School

1310. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether road safety committee set up by the Transport Ministry in the year 1992 had recommended for setting up Drivers' Training Institute from the States as well as on national level;

(b) if so, whether a number of schools for providing training to the Drivers were set up by the State Governments and Union Territories;

(c) if so, what is the total number of schools set up so far in the State of Punjab;

(d) the total number of training programmes conducted to the persons from the State of Punjab at the national level;

(e) to what extend it has been beneficial for the Punjab; and

(f) what were the funds allocated to Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir. However, a Road Safety Committee was set up in the year 1982 which had inter-alia, recommended that the Government may set up Model Traffic Training Schools for training drivers and conductors. Accordingly, the Government had set up a National Institute of Road Safety. The recommendation of the Committee was also circulated to the States.

(b) to (f) This falls within the jurisdiction of the State Governments and the details are not available.

Four Laning of Sirhind-Jalandhar Highway

1311. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India had undertaken the widening of Sirhind-Jalandhar section of National Highway-1 with four laning in Punjab;

(b) what is the total amount allocated for this project and the amount spent so far;

(c) what is the progress made in implementing the scheme;

(d) by what time widening of the National Highway will be completed;

(e) whether authorities implementing have pointed out that the allocations made will not be sufficient to complete the work; and

(f) whether the time schedule of completion of these projects i.e. March, 1994 will be adhered to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Expenditure upto March, 1993 is Rs. 7087 lakhs.

(c) Progress upto March, 1993 is 91%.

(d) The work is targetted to be completed by March, 1994.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir.

Allocation of Funds for the Development of National Highways in Punjab

1312. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether requirement of the funds for the maintenance and repairs of the National Highways has gone up since 1968 onwards;

(b) what is the amount of increase;

(c) what is the extent of increase in traffic on these highways;

(d) what is the amount allocated so far during 1992-93 and 1993-94 in respect of National Highways in Punjab; and

(e) what was the amount allocated and spend for the maintenance on National Highways in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requirement of fund for maintenance and repairs of National Highways has gone up from Rs. 10.77 crores in 1968 to Rs. 350 crores at present.

(c) There has been a general increase in traffic on National Highways which varies from 5 to 9 per cent annually depending upon their location.

(d) The amount allocated for development of National Highways in Punjab for 1992-93 was Rs. 2800 lakhs and for 1993-94 is Rs. 3600 lakhs.

(e) Position of maintenance and repairs funds in case of Punjab is as under:—

Year	*Funds allotted* (Rs. in lakhs)	*Expenditure*
1992-93	638.97	625.74(upto 2/93)
1993-94	497.38	47.07(upto 4/93).

Development of Guwahati-Shillong-Silchar Highway

1313. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: